

# THE JUNCTION

**WEEKEND** P8.00

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## Congress to Subpoena Books of all Sobrepena Companies

The House Committee on

Bases Conversion resolved to subpoena the books of Sobrepena-led companies, including the Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJHDevco), during a hearing held Wednesday to investigate the Sobrepenas' questionable business practices and unpaid debts to government.

The committee, chaired by Kalinga Rep. Manual Agyao, approved the motion of Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson, to subpoena the financial records of CJHDevco and all related Sobrepena companies and to conduct an independent audit of these companies.

CJHDevco currently owes a whopping P3 billion in unpaid lease rentals for leasing a portion of government property in the John Hay Special Economic Zone (JHSEZ). The Baguio City local government will receive P750 million if the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), the government body that governs the JHSEZ, is able to collect the unpaid lease rentals of the delinquent lessee.

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**TURTLE PACE**  
- The contractor for the repair and rehabilitation of a sewer line along Jacinto and Perfecto Streets receives various complaints from business establishments and motorists when it started the project last December. Until now only a portion was dug-out with a foul smell coming out from sewer lines to the detriment of the public's health, safety and inconvenience./ Che Guevarra



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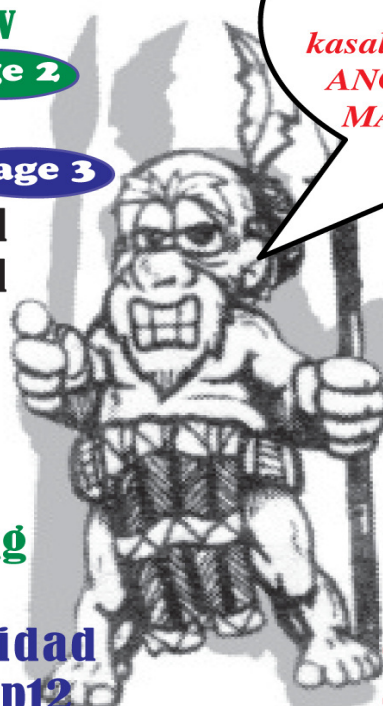
*Malaking kasalukuyan problema sa BCDA at CJHDEVCO, kagagawan ng mga dating opisyal na marami sa kanila ay kasalukuyan nanunungkulan pa rin. ANG KAKAPAL NINYO KAYONG MAY MGA KAGAGAWAN NITO*

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THE PEACE COMBATANT



BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS



Batas, "Pork", DOTC, Dengue

BY: BATAS MAURICIO

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## Mayor Amenable To Stop Trade Fairs In Parks But Seeks Permanent Site

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan during the Weekly Ugnayan Presser Wednesday expressed his support for the amendment of the Trade Fair Ordinance of the city.

The proposed amendment is sponsored by SP Committee on Laws Councilor Richard Carino and is still pending deliberations with the council.

The supposed amendment of certain provisions of the ordinance aims to stop the holding of trade fairs and similar activities in all city-owned or city managed parks.

This will also include government owned and controlled facilities and properties.

The mayor however said that a permanent site for this kind of activity should be pinpointed and if possible can be adopted as an economic revenue area.

Domogan said the old city auditorium could be a site for such endeavor and if everyone is amenable then there should be no more approval of any trade fair except in that area.

Domogan also noted that trade fairs should have a noble purpose and should highlight indigenous products which cannot be bought in regular stores./paul rillorta

## Ailing Mother Feels how Expensive it is to be Poor

Fifty three-year old Amparo Rivera limped her way last Tuesday, to deliver a note she signed allowing the publication of her fight against the big C, hoping readers would respond to her appeal for support.

Her plea has nothing to do with the observance of Women's Month. Except, perhaps, for the recurrent theme for the annual observance - empowerment of women -, and the nature of her affliction.

A m p a r o , mother to two sons and three daughters, is groping for empowerment in her grim battle against cancer of the cervix.

"Sabi ng doctor, tumaas na raw and antas ng aking cancer (The doctor said the stage of my cancer has been

raised)," she said. "Naging Stage III na raw at kailangan kailangan na magpa-radiation therapy na raw ako bago lumala ulit (It has become Stage III and that it's urgent that I undergo radiation therapy before it worsens."

The advice for the 30-day radiation therapy was made months back, when her carcinoma was still at Stage II-B.

Given the prohibitive costs, she couldn't. All she could do recently was to go back to her doctor for advice on how to stop the bleeding that had developed because of her failure to sustain her treatment.

"Mama wasn't able to go for treatment because the 30-session radio-therapy at the Philippine Lung Center (in Quezon City) costs

P68,000," her son, Ricky Martes, explained.

"Kung meron lang sanang pambayad," Amparo wondered aloud, as if in soliloquy, and then wiped her palm on her welling eyes.

She admitted she didn't even have the amount needed to control the bleeding. She was just glad that a Samaritan who introduced herself as "Madge", arranged to meet the patient last Sunday morning in front of a drugstore along Session Rd., Baguio's main street.

"Nagbigay po s'ya nga P2,000 na ibinili ko kaagad ng gamot para sa pagdudugo (She gave P2,000 which I immediately used in buying medicines for the bleeding)," Amparo said.

Whatever she and her children had raised went to completing her five-ses-

**Cont. on page 11**

## Plastic is out, Bayong is in

This year will mark the return of the reusable "bayong" and other biodegradable bags as a ban on the use of plastic containers in commercial establishments gets enforced in Baguio.

People going to market will now have to bring along rattan baskets and containers made of paper, buri and other biodegradable materials. Plastic bag sellers at the city market will also now have to shift to peddling "bayong" and other "green bags".

A city ordinance passed five years ago has taken effect, aimed at drastically reducing use of plastic that daily poses an environmental disaster as wrapper and container for food and consumer goods of all types and sizes.

Ordinance 26,

passed on June 25, 2007, bans supermarkets and groceries, together with retail stores in the city's commercial zone and stalls at the city market from using plastic containers "for all dry goods and groceries".

The ordinance, dubbed "Baguio City Paper Ordinance", took effect last January but it came unnoticed given the five-year gap between its passage and its implementation.

It doesn't mean, however, that plastic will be totally out of the picture.

As per Sec. 4 of the ordinance, fresh meat, fish, vegetables and fruits in the city market "may be packed in plastic containers or sando bags, provided these are placed in

shopping bags allowed in this Ordinance".

As it was approved five years before it took effect, the ordinance could have been forgotten if not for vice-mayor Daniel Farinas who, last Monday, told the city's department heads of its effectiveness.

Authored by then councilor Faustino Olowan, the regulatory ordinance was adopted on June 25, 2007 on motion of councilors Erdolfo Balajadia, Edilberto Tenebrancia and Jose Molintas.

The city council then reasoned out that "to be able to successfully launch and sustain an effective waste management program for the City of Baguio, sources of wastes should be properly looked into so as to control and regulate

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## Inquiry on Women Trafficking set Monday

BAGUIO CITY – The city council will hold an inquiry on the alleged women trafficking in the city in its regular session tomorrow (Monday).

The body invited Baguio City Police Office children and women's desk head Sr. Insp. Divina Mencilio, city social welfare and development officer Betty Fangasan, permits and licensing office head Cristio Lagyop, Mila Singson of the Gabriela Women's Partylist and other women's organiza-

tions to shed light on the extent of the problem.

Councilors Perlita Rondez, Betty Lourdes Tabanda, Philian Louise Weygan Allan and Karmin Dinney Yangot sought the inquiry in a proposed resolution based on reports received by Singson of Innabuyog-Gabriela that eight young women asked to be rescued from Monro Disco Bar located along Bokawkan Road on Feb. 1.

The said women who came from Davao and later

identified under the code Monro 8 were allegedly forced to serve as sex workers and through the assistance of Singson, they were able to escape.

"On Feb. 8, through the assistance of the Dept. of Social Welfare and Dev't (DSWD) and in the company of two social workers, Monro 8 were repatriated up to Manila because this was the extent of assistance that DSWD could allegedly afford to grant. However, Monro 8 did not have money to go home to

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THE JUNCTION

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(SGD) Odell P. Aquino The Junction- OIC



## OCD Conducts Basic Mountain Search and Rescue Training

**BAGUIO CITY** - The Office of Civil Defense-Cordillera (OCD-CAR), in partnership with the local government unit (LGU) of Kabayan, Benguet headed by Mayor Faustino Aquisan, is conducting basic Mountain Search and Rescue (MOSAR) Training for local emergency responders.

The six-day MOSAR training which started March 12, is being conducted in the Barangay Poblacion of Kabayan. It includes lectures and trainings on: Incident Command System; mountain search and rescue including mountain walking technique; rescue knots and lines; anchors and the anchors system; belaying; mechanical advantage; rappelling techniques; fundamentals on high angle rescue techniques; stretcher rigging; and other types of rescue techniques.

Training instructors for the said activity are Fire Inspector Ely Timuat II, Fire Officer 2 Manuel Sevilla and Fire Officer 1 Ernesto Belecario II from the Special Rescue Unit of the Bureau of Fire Protection - National Capital region (BFP-NCR) and Master Sergeant Angelito Bueno of Benguet's First Ready Reserve Battalion.

According to OCD Regional Director Olivia Luces, who also chairs the Cordillera Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (CRDRRMC), the said training aims to enhance the knowledge and capability of local emergency responders particularly about the aspects of a mountain rescue operation, to capacitate them on how to respond and apply basic rescue operations on any given emergency situation.

Luces also bared that as part of the government's DRRM effort, they are working to continuously enhance the capability of the different local emergency responders in the region, which in the case of municipality of Kabayan which is a mountainous area, a MOSAR training is more appropriate. "Our office is always open to provide technical assistance to any LGU in the region as far as DRRM related training is concerned. All they have to do is to coordinate with us. We already have many scheduled trainings for this year; after Kabayan, we are also set to conduct a Water Search and Rescue (WASAR) Training in Kalinga", she said. Luces also disclosed that after the Incident Command System (ICS) Basic Training Course conducted for the Regional DRRM Council Technical Working Group, they are now set to bring the ICS training down to the provincial and municipal level./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

## Baguio City, NGO Recognize Best Performing Barangay Women's Group

**BAGUIOCITY** - In celebration of Women's month, the City Government of Baguio and the Balikatan sa Kaunlaran (BSK), Inc, a non-government women organization (NGO) gave recognition to the best performing barangay women's group in the city in a simple program held last Saturday at SM City Baguio.

Winning the top plum for this year is Samahang Kababaihan Kabalikatan sa Kabuhayang Pangkaunlaran - KALIPI of San Carlos Heights, Irisan. The said group, which was founded in 1998, is very active on environmental awareness, emergency and green building programs

and activities. Among its projects are recycling solid waste materials into different handicrafts, pine needle handicrafts, paper beads craft making, Botika sa Barangay, solid waste management, and organic urban gardening.

At second place is Barangay Gibraltar KALIPI Women's Organization, while tied at third are the KALIPI Women's Organization of Barangay Loakan Proper and barangay Middle Rock Quarry. The other 14 women's group who joined the search were given consolation prizes in recognition of their efforts in improving the lives of women in their respective barangays.

According to City Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda,

chairperson of BSK and the City Council Committee on Social Services, Women and Urban Poor, the annual search initiated in 2005, aims to give due recognition to the performances and accomplishments of the women organizations in the city that provide opportunities for their fellow women to exercise their full potentials.

"The search's primary objective is women empowerment to encourage women to do activities for their self development, family welfare and community development", Tabanda stressed.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan also graced the said event where he expressed the city government's commitment in the promotion of gender equality and development in the city./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

## NEDA Sec. to bring PDP Caravan to Cordillera on Mar. 19-20

**BAGUIO CITY** - Socio-Economic Planning Secretary and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Director-General Cayetano Paderanga Jr. is set to bring the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) caravan in the Cordillera Administrative Region on March 19 and 20.

The caravan's objective is to enhance awareness and understanding on the PDP - the Aquino government's national roadmap for inclusive growth. It also aims to engage the support of the region in the Plan's implementation at the regional level; to provide the NEDA - Central Office staff opportunity to experience development on the ground; and to strengthen the partnership between national and regional planners and implementers.

According to NEDA-CAR Regional Director Leonardo Quito Jr., Paderanga and his team from the NEDA Central Office will be coming to Baguio to have a briefing and dialogue on the PDP and the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) strategy of the government.

Invited participants for the PDP and PPP briefing are Regional Development Council (RDC-CAR) officials and members, national line agency information officers and other regional development stakeholders from the private sector, as well as local media practitioners. The PDP 2011 - 2016, which was based on President's Aquino's Social Contract with the Filipino people and with overarching theme of 'good governance and anti-corruption,' envisions the achievement of inclusive growth, create employment opportunities and reduce poverty in the country.

In pursuit of inclusive growth, the PDP targets higher economic growth of 7 to 8 percent per year for at least six years - a growth the will generate mass employment and reduce poverty including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals./JDP/LD-PIA

## DOH Advocates Awareness and Early Detection of Colon And Rectal Cancer

**BAGUIO CITY** - Cancer remains to be the third leading cause of mortality and morbidity in the Philippines, and colon and rectal cancer places second in terms of the type of cancer with the most number of cases not only here in the country but also worldwide.

These are among the facts that Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) Surgery Department head, Dr. Romeo Concepcion Jr. stressed in a kapihan media forum here Wednesday, in line with the observance of Colon and Rectal Cancer Awareness Month this March.

According to Concepcion, colon and rectal cancer is curable provided that they are detected early and the right management is instituted right away. "Unfortunately, as per our experience in BGHMC this is not the case as 60 percent of our cases are relatively in the advance stage already, which maybe because of the fear financially and the fear of knowing the truth. There is still a need for more awareness", he stressed.

Concepcion also disclosed that aside from the increasing trend in colon and rectal cancer cases that are coming in at the BGHMC, it is also becoming alarming that colon and rectal cancer patients are getting younger, from the usual 50 years old and above to as young as 19 years old and even without family history.

"Theoretically there is a long list of possible causes. Unfortunately most of these cases are sporadic. They just happen, even without strong family history. In which one of my resident physician suggested that we undergo a profiling of all of our patients. On what makes them develop colon and rectal cancer", he said.

Concepcion explained that the colon is the part of the digestive system where the waste material is stored while the rectum is the end of the colon adjacent to the anus. Together, they form a long, muscular tube called the large intestine.

He also stressed that getting or having a colon or rectal cancer is mostly genetic and the most common symptoms is rectal bleeding as well as change in bowel habits and unexplained weight loss.

"We categorize our patient depending on the risk - average, moderate or high. For an average individual with no risk at all, we recommend a baseline colonoscopy at age of 50. If it comes out normal they can have it after every five years. For moderate risk or those with a first degree relative who have a colon cancer, they should have a colonoscopy as well as surveillance at age 40 or 45 depending on the index lesion, or they should subtract 10 years from the age of their relative with colon cancer" Concepcion said.

He reiterated that awareness and early detection are still the key factors that the public need to consider./LD/PIA CAR



## Fumbled Headcounts

"The true test of civilization is not the census", Ralph Waldo Emerson insisted. "(Rather), it is the kind of man that the country turns out."

'Like Renato Corona? At the impeachment trial, lawyers of the Supreme Court chief' try to square the circle for him. They've crammed pricey condos, choice lots to sealed dollar accounts within Corona's fixed salary— with scant success so far.

A census can induce M-E-G-O ("My eyes glaze over".) Yet, headcounts are crucial to fraud-free elections or deciding how many classrooms to build.

Look at our 12 headcounts since a 1903 census tallied 7.6 million of us then. The delayed 2007 census counted four

Filipinos where there was one after World War II.

## EDITORIAL

There were 101.8 million Filipinos last year, Index Mundi claims. World Bank, however, pegs 2012 population at 93.2 million — closer to National Statistical Coordination Board's "guesstimate", anchored to "2000 census based projections."

Why do we still fiddle with this decade old census? Didn't the last but two-year overdue headcount report a population of 88.5 million in 2007? Then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo signed Proclamation 1489 for that...

"UN projected there'd be 86 million of us by 2010 Viewpoint noted (PDI/April 21, 2008). But birth rates declined slower than other countries. Proclamation 1489 shows we crossed that marker 2005 — five years earlier than predicted."

Below-the-surface misgivings roil scientists. Political warlords grounded census teams. A high rate of non-response bugged census enumerators. "We didn't count everyone", admits an official.

At the Philippine Population Conference, demographer Mercedes Concepcion and colleagues blasted Maguindanao's "statistically impossible" 5.4-percent increase in population. Most "newcomers" were 18 years olds — therefore new and new voters. In the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, numbers sprinted by 3.7 percent. In contrast, 19 Asian countries reported population declines.

"Voodoo demography" derails comparison with previous censuses. Policy makers, scientists and local leaders meanwhile fly blind. Yet, this policy crafting, by-the-seat-of-one's pants, could be avoided. How?

President Aquino monitors the drive to gouge out the corruption canker. This is essential. Ask those who track the Corona impeachment. Beyond scorched-earth measures, however, the President must build. He has limited time and must multi-task. He could, for example, dust off the report of the last national census, conducted May 17 to June 14 in 2010. It has mouldered on the President's in-tray.

Malacanang's inaction on the 2010 census hobbles planners for nutrition, health, fisheries to barangays. They're handcuffed to obsolete data, culled from the 2000 Census and 2007 enumeration results. The Education Department, for example, is hard pressed to get hard data on numbers of school-age population.

Wait for the 2010 census results, Don't fidget, counsels the National Statistical Coordination Board. Wait for release 2010 census results, By August 2012, statisticians will have the detailed tabulations of the 2010 results completed Everyone can construct projections then.

"Our hands are tied until the President gets around to declaring 2010 results official" say social scientists. "Barangay to provincial planning offices scrounge for data vital for action programs. We can not supply them". The Philippine Statistical system is hogtied.

And don't forget: The National Statistical Office is already is already planning for the mid-decade 2015 census! That's only three years away. Si viene atrasao, hueso ay come, the Chavacano proverb says, "He who comes late eats the bones."

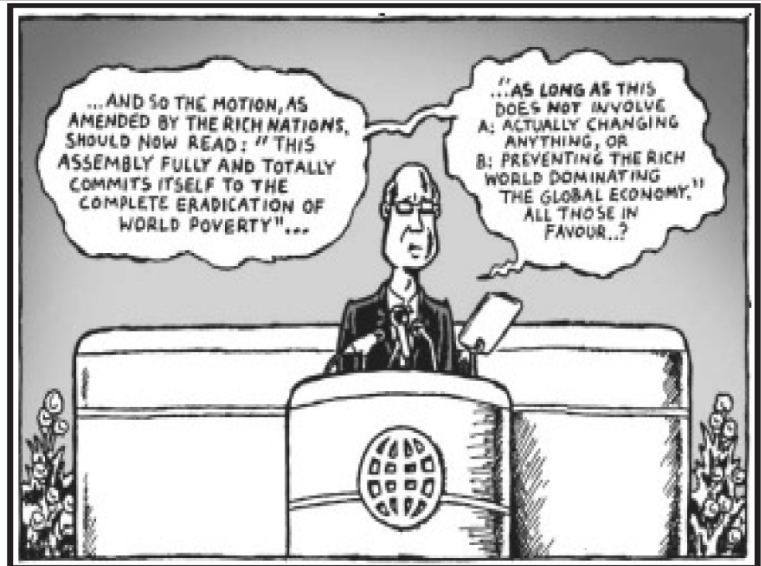
This is underscored when one surfs the US 2010 Census. A flick of the mouse can get population broken down by states, towns, countries, even block level. In contrast, one hits a blank wall on our 2010 census.

Filipinos can ill afford feet-dragging on reforms. Today, "children ... are born into deeply unequal societies and live out their lives hampered (or, in the case of a privileged few, aided) by collective perceptions, conventions and stereotypes, warns Unicef in it's 2012 report on the "State of World's Children."

Over 1.7 million children huddle in Metro Manila slums.

Impoverished rural migrants and children

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## THE PEACE COMBATANT

*Despite mining, Itogon is poor compared to Baguio, Dagupan, Urdaneta & La Trinidad*

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



Mining companies are spending millions to convince the public that they are contributing a lot to the development of municipalities where they operate. They have adopted a new package for the old medicine that they have been peddling for years: **responsible mining**. However, regardless of how they sell themselves, mining whether responsible or irresponsible, does not really contribute much to the development of the municipalities where they operate. Of course, irresponsible mining does worst. Yet, at the same time, the so-called "responsible mining" does not contribute much, if really at all, to a municipality's development. Quite the contrary, it is viable to argue that it is mining itself that is obstacle on why many municipalities and provinces are not able to rise to their potential. It is more viable to argue that mining can be the principal obstacle to a municipality's prosperity.

Take, for instance, the municipality of Itogon that is adjacent to Baguio City. Large-scale mining has been probably operating in the area for around or close to 100 years, a century. As the municipality of Itogon's official website described, the municipality of Itogon "was once a wilderness" where "wild dears and boars roamed undisturbed. The municipality of Itogon was once a municipality where "a good variety of birds sung melodies on branches of trees to the rippling waters where eels and other kinds of fishes abound." Mining destroyed all these and installed instead in its place, areas where trees are replanted. But replanting trees does not make a forest. An area planted to seedlings is not a wilderness, a habitat, a natural ecology, a forest.

Did mining make Itogon a prosperous municipality? No. Quite the contrary, it is mining that made the municipality a laggard compared to her peers in the north. Because mining companies allege that mining brought in millions of pesos to Itogon, the proper way to compare Itogon with other municipalities is to compare the municipality with nearby cities or municipalities that have become cities or near cities.

In Northern Philippines, the municipality has depended on mining for a long time and probably the municipality with the greatest dependence on mining (in years to come, Tapanan may overtake Itogon) is Itogon. Itogon covers around 49,800 hectares with a population of about 48,778 people as of 2007. In 2011, however, based on revenues that the municipality could muster, Itogon's budget was only Php 146 million.

In contrast, Baguio City with a total land area of only 5,779 hectares or only about 1/8 of Itogon but that is supporting more than 300,000 people has a total revenue/budget of more than a billion pesos. Baguio City has depended mainly on its educational and tourism sectors for a long time and only lately did the city rely on special economic zones. The municipality of La Trinidad, which had been largely dependent on her educational sector and vegetable production, has a land area of about 8,079 hectares or about 1/5 of Itogon and yet the municipality supports a population of 97,810 people as of 2007. In 2009, the municipality has an income/budget of Php 210.6 million or about 1.33 times of Itogon.

Urdaneta, a municipality near Baguio

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## ADVOCACY MINDANOW

*Police Colonel "Bato" And  
Dapecol Hostaging***BY: JESUS DUREZA**

Last Monday, the Times round-table "chat" had as guest the new Davao City Police director, Sr. Supt. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa. Many may ask why the nickname "Bato". Well, if you see him in person, his solid, rock-hard frame will explain why. But I was told it came from his being a native of a place in Davao del Sur called "Bato". The place, by the way, was previously known locally as the favourite hangout of the NPAs. But having served before as police director in the south, Col Bato must have cleared his neighbourhood.

He sat with us for an hour or so. Times President Willie Torres with our Finance official Bobet Castillo and the Times editors were already chatting with him when I walked in and greeted him with "How's my shooter?" That somehow started it all. We spent a good part of the hour remembering what happened many years ago at the Davao Penal Colony (DAPECOL) in Sto. Tomas, Davao Del Norte.

**ASSAULT SHOOTER** — At Dapecol, exactly to the month of March some 14 years ago, "Bato" was one of the assault shooters who successfully ended a four-day hostage incident inside the Davao prison farm. Eight sentenced and armed prisoners, demanding that they be freed and brought to the MILF rebel camp in Maguindanao, forcibly took as hostages women staff nurses and employees of the rehabilitation unit.

It was the year 1998. I recall I was then President Ramos' presidential assistant for Mindanao. I just arrived home in Davao from almost a month-long stint in Cagayan de Oro where I also helped in the tragic Cebu Pacific Flight 387 plane crash. I had to rush to Dapecol, about an hour's drive in middle of a vast banana plantation of the Floirendos.

For 4 days, despite intense negotiations, the 8 prisoners who were armed (with a hand grenade, a handgun and knives) did not peacefully relent. I even took calculated risks, personally went inside the hostage area alone several times and sat with them in dialogue hoping I could prevent a bloody end. At close quarters, I also wanted to win their trust and respond to their many demands. I also wanted to personally verify who was armed with what. I gave them almost all of their demands. There was only one demand that was not negotiable: allow them to go free.

**AS CRISIS MANAGER** — Unknown to many, on Day 2 as crisis manager, I directed that an assault team be composed and prepare for any contingency as I conducted negotiations with the hostage takers. Then Davao del Norte provincial police director, Col. Wilfredo "Garic" Garcia, (who rose to become one of the top police generals in Camp Crame) together with other PNP officers and men did the preparations in coordination with newly assigned prison Superintendent Boy Unson (who was flown from Manila upon quick orders from then Justice Secretary Silvestre "Bebot" Bello III to replace the sitting prison head who was one of the objects of the prisoners' grievances.)

**MOCK ASSAULTS** — "Bato", still a junior officer, was one of those who volunteered and chosen to compose the assault team. They were all trained sharpshooters with handguns. On Day 3, with the help of an unnamed Israeli commando expert, the shooters prepared for a possible assault operations as the situation was deteriorating. As I was conducting intense negotiations inside, somewhere outside the Dapecol area, a mock-up model of the actual hostage room of the rehabilitation unit was set up and simulated practice attacks were repeatedly done. They even clocked the mock "assaults" and reported to me that in a best-case scenario, they could do it in 28 seconds, from the actual start of the assault to the last gunshot. But I was still worried that the prisoner with the fragmentation grenade could release and explode it within that time and kill the women hostages. The hostages could be stabbed. Those "what-if" scenarios, of course, kept me awake late into the night during the duration of the crisis as I weighed my options. As crisis manager, I knew I had to take full responsibility for those judgment calls and their outcome. But I was a bit confident. The crisis management team was assisting me. The women hostages were also secretly giving me info through handwritten notes every time I would enter the hostage room or talk with them through the open window. So I knew how to calibrate my actions and decisions.

**ESCAPE TO CAMP ABUBAKAR** — I was tipped off that Day 4 was their "do or die" day. The night before they agreed to carry out their plan the following day as soon **Cont. on page 10**

## KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

*Batas, "Pork", DOTC, Dengue***BY: BATAS MAURICIO**

**LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS:** "... The Lord will strike you with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation... which will plague you until you perish..." (Deuteronomy 28:22, the Holy Bible).

-ooo-

**BATAS PARTY LIST ANNOUNCEMENT:** The current leaders of BATAS Party List, or the Bagong Alyansang Tagapagtaguyod ng Adhikaing Sambayanan, are asking all the party's Metro Manila members to update their personal information, for submission to the Commission on Elections.

Valene Cajucom, BATAS secretary general, said party leaders wanted the updates completed by March 27, 2012. Cajucom said party members can either text their updated information to 09185740193, or email them at [batasparty@yahoo.com](mailto:batasparty@yahoo.com).

Those wishing to join BATAS Party List from all over the country or from abroad can send a text message saying they are joining, including their names and addresses, also to 09185740193, or by emailing them also at [batasparty@yahoo.com](mailto:batasparty@yahoo.com).

-ooo-

**PORK NEED NOT BE GIVEN TO LAWMAKERS:** Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda just confirmed that, really, there is no need for pork barrel funds to be coursed through congressmen and senators, with his disclosures that those funds can actually be directly poured into the congressmen's and senators' bailiwicks without the lawmakers' participation. So, why are administration lawmakers still receiving their "pork"?

-ooo-

**CRIME DOES NOT PAY, ONCE MORE WITH FEELINGS:** Cecilio Bacolo, 19, and Roderick Soliveres, 28, were the latest proofs that committing crimes—heinous ones at that, such as raping and killing a seven-year-old girl—does not pay. After they were arrested and detained, they were killed, under an excuse which has become almost a cliché in police stories—attempting to wrest away the gun of policemen and trying to escape. This should be a gruesome warning to all!

-ooo-

**DOTC NOT HELPING TRANSPORT SECTOR:** Indeed, I cannot understand the refusal of the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) to even just look at the difficulties being encountered by mass transport drivers and operators in view of escalating oil and gas prices. If drivers and operators are spending much, much more on oil and gas, are they not entitled to collect higher fares so they could at least earn something?

Yes, increasing fares will make life harder for more Filipinos whose only way of mobility is public transportation and, yes, we should avoid doing this. But then, why is DOTC trying to alleviate the sufferings of Filipinos at the expense of the transport sector, in general, and of drivers and operators, in particular?

This goes to show the intellectual bankruptcy of the DOTC, and its outright bias against the public transport sector. While DOTC officials are unable to solve the problem of escalating high prices and the increasing impossibility of operating a public utility vehicle precisely because of these high prices, they are nevertheless keeping their stranglehold on the transport sector by not allowing fare hikes.

-ooo-

**WRONG ILOILO DENGUE PROGRAM:** Someone should tell Iloilo City officials that they have it all wrong with their "4 p.m. habit" program to combat dengue. Dengue mosquitoes do not thrive in murky and dirty surroundings. They do thrive in clean water and clear environment. What Iloilo City should do, if it wants an effective dengue campaign, is to read the Bible, because dengue is Biblical (see "Life's Inspirations" today).

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## 1st-APLUMA!

Start 'Em Young

BY: ISMAEL AMIGO SR



If we are not mistaken, we are now on the 30<sup>th</sup> day (yesterday, Thursday) of CJ Corona's Impeachment Trial.

And sadly, to our observation and perhaps to a big number of the Filipino populace, the prosecution still seems to be clutching at straws.

Defense panel chief Serafin Cuevas is even said to be looking or asking from the prosecution important documents the latter borrowed from them.

This kind of tactic may not or may be important to the proceedings but it similarly paints a dark impression on President Noy's boys of summer led by Rep. Neil Tupaz of Iloilo.

Did the prosecution team really borrowed a document from the defense and the defense allowed it to be borrowed by the prosecution for their persecution?

It simply boggles the mind.

How could the defense let an important document slip through their hands and into the prosecution's?

For them to dissect and study its validity outside of the impeachment court? That's unlikely. Whew.

But whatever. For us, it seems that experience (defense) will prevail this time over youth (prosecution).

This is no vain attempt at trending but every Pinoy or Juan with a sane mind can judge at this point in time which is which has more weight from where Sen. JPE's sits.

\*\*\*

Indeed, it's a big challenge allowing kids manage family-controlled businesses or corporations alongside non-family members but at the Ateneo Family Business Development Center forum, leaders of the country's biggest enterprises put them on as their biggest assets.

For one, Filinvest's Josephine Gotianun-Yap claimed that family members are said to be an excellent human resource pool having the same values yet you have to reap the benefit of a very long training period for there is already a built-in loyalty and pride in them in their business.

"We have to start them young. In military terms, it's called brainwashing. In our case, we had the regular share of horror stories about wealthy families who lost their fortune due to mismanagement. So my children will tell you that they're sick of hearing the same stories over and over just to stress that they need to work," Yap says.

On the other hand Ayala Corp.'s Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala averred that "one of the ways we instill stewardship in the next generation is educating family members about family roots, achievements over the years, and family members' roles in Philippine economic history."

"Fernando and I spend time with them not talking about complex business issues, but more about a sense of giving back a little bit..."

Martin Lorenzo of The Pancake House group also shared the same observation but he said, children also have to gain training outside of their family businesses and gain business values like frugality and devotion to work.

"Sometimes this is because family businesses put in their children too early, not because they're not capable or not competent. They are, but not yet ready. So my belief is they should work outside, learn and get their stripes outside first and once they learn especially from the mistakes of others. It would be the time they may come back into the business," Lorenzo said./1st-APLUMA (1st-Alliance of Provincial Newspaper Publishers)

## CHR Accredits 7 Ifugao Mentors as Human Rights Educators

L A M U T, Ifugao, Mar. 12 (PIA) - The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in the region recently accredited seven mentors of the Ifugao State University (IFSU) as human rights educators after conducting series of trainings. These accredited HR educators are: Alice Brawner, Anthony Cantes, Charmagne Roldan, Jess Saldaan, Joenas Nacod-am, Edward Baliwang and Regina Mendoza. They would act as

human rights lecturers to students and other stakeholders in the university.

The accreditation of said employees is part of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed last year by IFSU officials led by President Serafin Ngohayon and CHR

## Job Mix Activities now Banned Along Roads

BAGUIO CITY – The city now prohibits job mix and cement batching activities along major and barangay roads.

The city council last week approved Ordinance No. 2 series of 2012 authored by Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas which penalizes said violators with a fine ranging from P1,000-P5,000 or revocation of license.

Farinas in his measure said contractors undertaking road improvement works conduct their job mix and cement batching activities along the roads and this sometimes leads to accidents involving motorists and pedestrians.

"It is of public knowledge that there are undergoing constructions in the major thoroughfares in the city and some establishments do their job mix activities along the roads. Cement batching stations are likewise placed along the roads to the detriment of motorists and passengers," he said.

Farinas also said the materials used in road construction works contribute to air pollution and waste problem of the city.

"The construction materials, which are scattered along the roads, may also contribute to air pollution. Cement in engineering and building constructions consists of finely manufactured substance of rocks that hardens after being mixed with water. These finely manufactured substances are easily dispersed in the air in the form of dust and gases, hence, contributing to airborne pollution. Numerous biodegradable and non-biodegradable materials are likewise dumped on the roads and these accumulated aggregates are carried to the drainage system that when it rains it clogs the city's canals," he lamented.

The city tasked the Department of Public Works and Highways-Cordillera Administrative Region (DPWH-CAR), the City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO) and all barangay officials are tasked to oversee the implementation of the ordinance./A Refuerzo

## Rules on Abattoir Operations Okayed

BAGUIO CITY – The city council last Monday approved on final reading an ordinance setting the rules in the operation of the slaughterhouse, livestock and meat inspection service in the city.

The ordinance authored by Councilors Erdolfo Balajadia, Betty Lourdes Tabanda and Philian Louise Weygan-Allan amended sections 34 A-G and 35 of Tax Ordinance No. 2000-001.

The rules and regulations adopted on the slaughterhouse operations cover the schedule of operations, slaughtering procedures, meat hauling and delivery, personal hygiene and requirements for personnel working in the slaughterhouse and meat handlers, cleaning and disinfection, fees and charges, the livestock marker, use of holding pen, and parking of vehicles.

"The sale of livestock in the slaughterhouse compound shall follow all rules and regulations as prescribed by the City Veterinarian pursuant to city ordinances, national laws, rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and other authorities," the ordinance notes.

Other prohibited acts spelled out are: slaughtering of animals other than designated areas; smoking, urinating, spitting, blowing of nose and eating inside the slaughterhouse; intoxication and/or drinking of alcoholic drinks within the slaughterhouse compound; loitering/standing by inside the slaughterhouse and/or premises; bringing out of carcass prior to inspection; and non-payment of fees.

Meat inspection rules cover ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections, post-meat establishment control, handling frozen and chilled meat and meat products in the markets, and the ban on transport, distribution and sale of double-dead meat or "botcha."

The measure also spells out guidelines in the transport of meat, poultry and products and the fees required; and the confiscation and disposal of meat, poultry and by-products.

For penalties, violators will be subject to fines ranging from P500 to P5,000, suspension and revocation of license, confiscation of products and imprisonment./A Refuerzo

Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) Regional Director Harold D. Kub-arón to establish the university as the Center for Human Rights Education.

Before the formal accreditation, the CHR-CAR conducted a rigid training to these human rights educators on the procedures of the integration of human rights education in the curriculum with an actual class demonstration.

According to IFSU's Department of Special Services head Dr. Diosdado M. Aquino, the

university's Center for Human Rights Education looks forward to the integration of human rights education not only in instruction but also in research, extension, and resource generation./JDP/MBL – PIA CAR, Ifugao



## Lawmaker calls for Comprehensive Review Of Oil Deregulation Law

Senator Chiz Escudero is pushing for a comprehensive review of the oil deregulation law in order to strengthen the powers of the Department of Finance and the Department of Justice in monitoring and addressing oil price hikes. Escudero, chairman of the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights, reiterated this call contained in Senate Resolution (SR) 217 he filed long time ago. "The situation in 2008 when oil pump prices reached P60 per liter is looming to happen again now, with our Department of Energy (DOE) saying it so," Escudero said.

"I am calling for an immediate review of the present oil deregulation law to balance the equilibrium between our government agencies concerned and the oil players in the country," he added. Escudero said that Republic Act (RA) 8479, or the oil deregulation law, was enacted to equip the DOE with enough powers to monitor the pump prices and ensure reasonable pricing on the basis of prevailing inventory and market price set by oil companies and dealers. "But those seem to be just lip service for any oil price increase implemented is faster than lightning. Oil companies can easily raise oil prices without having to seek government's consent. But the reverse is very glaring when decrease in oil is implemented by oil companies and retailers," the senator said. This asymmetric price adjustments then become a burden to consumers, he added. Escudero said the transport sector, which bears the brunt of the price escalations, has to seek and plea for the government's nod for any fare hike to cope with the escalating prices of petroleum products. SR 217 seeks a permanent solution and not palliatives to the present oil price problem. Instead of an emergency power for the President, it grants him the standby powers to address the impact of any considerable hikes in oil prices and redefines the concepts of cartelization and predatory pricing as provided for in Section 11 of RA 8479. "We have to give a tangible solution to the heavy loads of our people from economic realities. We need a solution so that our people can cope with the soaring commodity price increases," he said. He warned however, that government interventions tend to be costly, as what happened in 2009 when government lifted price caps on gasoline prices, which skyrocketed prices almost instantly. Escudero urged his colleagues to prioritize the review of the oil deregulation law, citing Section 2 of the existing law which says that it is the policy of the state to liberalize and deregulate the oil industry to ensure a truly competitive market under a regime of fair prices, adequate and continuous supply of environmentally-clean and high petroleum products./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

## Sports Feature: Helping Hands Bring Indoor Football to Jail

Futsal or indoor football may yet become a regular feature of prison reform here, thanks to support from expatriates and the passion of the Cinderellas, Baguio's multi-titled women's soccer team, to share a sports event they had dominated for over 20 years now.

A woman inmate last year pleaded to have someone introduce the court version of the world's most popular sport as a digression from the regular basketball games played by inmates and guards on the city jail quadrangle.

The Cinderellas, rightfully the original Askals for having to scrounge for funds

to be able to compete, responded in full force two Sundays back through an arrangement with jail warden, Chief Insp. Severino Khita. They had with them balls and orange markers brought in last November by former members of Baguio's men side who have since scattered abroad. Before revisiting home, expatriates collected equipment from fellow Filipinos in Canada and the United States of America.

Former goalie Eduardo Dait and teammate Albert Martin, both based in Vancouver, Canada, and Jimmy Martin, now in the United States, turned

over the balls and gear to the Cinderellas in an evening get-together last November here.

With them were teammates Sammy Torres, Davis Siao, Fed Solomon, Jhun Sadicon, Larry Garcia and Cesar Eslao and younger generation players Aris Bocalan, Bakhshish, Jerry Tabisula, Gary Dait and Jurgen Gatchalian.

Pioneer fullback Virgie Tibaldo-Bungay, as vice-president of the Baguio Football Association, received the imported equipment in the company of fellow original Cinderellas Annaliza Umoc-Cabanilla, Evangeline Gigan, Grace Carrera, Richelle Tabisula and second and third generation recruits.

## City Prays for BCDA-Cjhdevco Truce

BAGUIO CITY – The city government thinks that an out-of-court settlement remains to be the best option to resolve the dispute between the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) and the Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJHDevCo) never mind if the two parties remain in the thick of a court battle and a raging media war.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas last week urged House Special Committee on Bases Conversion Rep. Manuel Agyao to persuade the two parties to end the court cases and instead resolve the issues amicably.

"We hereby plead and pray for the Honorable Members of the Committee and August House of Representatives to support us... in urgently and collectively calling on both parties (BCDA and CJHDevCo) to exert extra effort in settling their legal differences amicably and abstemiously outside the four walls of the court, sitting down to negotiate based on the contracts they have entered into which constitute the law between them," Domogan and Farinas noted in the position paper submitted to the committee during the committee deliberation on House Resolution No. 1771 which directs the conduct of investigation on the Camp John Hay deal.

The two officials also asked the committee to request the two parties "to evaluate and determine the obligations that any of them failed to comply and its monetary value so that payments can be made at the soonest possible time, and in order that the City of Baguio can likewise collect its twenty-five (25 percent) share pursuant to the 19-conditionalities under Resolution No. 362, series of 1994 unanimously approved by the Board of Directors of BCDA."

"Surely, the Honorable Chairman and members of the Committee and the August Chamber, for this matter, would agree with us that there is no way of knowing which side would win the court's nod. This fact would only be exacerbated by the tedious court processes which serve no other purpose but to delay what benefits the people of Baguio can otherwise secure from the development of Camp John Hay like its 25 percent share from its lease rentals," they said.

The mayor earlier said the matter could not have gone out of hand if only the parties sat down and exercised diplomacy to understand each other instead of resorting to court cases but he said he has not given up hope on this possibility.

BCDA and CJHdevCo's botched negotiations for the payment of the rentals placed at P3,024 billion resulted to the developer's filing for the rescission of its Restructuring Memorandum of Agreement with BCDA signed in 2008 for BCDA's alleged failure to deliver contractual obligations and demands.

The CJHDevCo later filed a case before the Regional Trial Court here for protection against an alleged takeover plan of the BCDA.

The city stands to receive 25 percent of the CJHDevCo arrears with the BCDA based on the lease agreement.

The original agreement pegged the lease rental at P425 million annually for the first five years starting in 1996 and P150 million annually thereafter and the city's share from the rental was supposed to be 25 percent or P106 million for the first five years and P35,500,000 for the succeeding years.

However, the lease agreement was restructured in 2000, 2003 and in 2008. /PIO

Earlier, the Cinderellas set in tarpaulin the following names of those who filled up the balikbayan boxes brought in by Albert and Eduardo: Marcus and Niko-Levi Murray, Avelina Gonzales, Dan Gonzales, Tito and Elsa Gonzales, Tiana Pangalim, Boyet and Cora, Sisay Belcha, Paulina Dait, JB and Vince Dait, Joey Eisma, Paulo and Mark Dait, Ferdie Santos, Fernando Gacayan, Rick Biasura, Al Magante, Charity

Dacutan, Aflanton Rezal, Amira Negadar, Camelo Resente and Nita Lipas.

The banner also paid tribute to Manny Javellana, the dyed-in-the-wool football coach who recruited and trained the pioneer Cinderellas out of high school and college students in the 1980s.

Javellana, now based in Bacolod, visited last November to watch with Albert and Eduardo a goodwill match between

Cinderellas and a selection from the Benguet State University at the Brent School grounds.

In a country of midgets fallen heads over basketball, Javellana believed he could transform a women's squad into the country's best, even as he left home for Bacolod when he knew they were ready.

In the summer of 1990, girls pooled their stipends and hired a jeepney for the national women's champion-

Cont. on page 9



Republic of the Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT, BRANCH 9 [FAMILY COURT FOR BENGUET] FIRST JUDICIAL REGION  
La Trinidad, Benguet

IN THE MATER OF PETITION FOR LEGITIMATION OF MINOR MARK GREGORY LUSADA QUIAO AND CORRECTION OF ENTRIES IN HIS CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH,

VIRGINIA N. LUSADA AND GONZALES G. QUIAO,

*Petitioners,*

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET and the NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE,

*Respondents,*

SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASE NO. 12-C-1732

X——X

ORDER

*Petitioners, of this Court,*

through counsel, filed this verified petition praying that after due notice, publication and hearing the court orders the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet to correct the following entries in the Certificate of Live Birth of Mark Gregory Lusada Quiao as follows:

FIRST NAME : From Blank to MARK GREGORY

MIDDLE NAME : from Ngamilot to LUSADA

LAST NAME : from Lusada to QUIAO

GENDER : from Female to MALE

And supply the FATHER'S INFORMATION as follows:

Name : G O N Z A L E S GAPACAN QUIAO

Citizenship : Filipino

Religion : Roman Catholic

Occupation : laborer

Ag at the time of birth: 30

And likewise supply, Date and Place of Marriage of Parents: September 27, 2007, Baguio City and to declare the child as legitimated.

WHEREFORE, finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the court sets it for hearing on May 2, 2012 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning before the Session Hall

Benguet Provincial Capitol, La Trinidad, Benguet and all persons interested may appear and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in the Junction, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province, once a week for three [3] consecutive weeks the first publication to be made not later than March 18, 2012.

Furnish copies hereof together with a copy of the petition and its annexes to the

Office of the Solicitor General, Makati City, the Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet; the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet; the Junction Newspaper; the petitioners and counsel.

SO ORDERED.

This 15th day of March 2012 at La Trinidad, Benguet.

By: (SGD) FRANCIS A. BULIYAT Jr. Presiding Judge

Publication Dates : March 17, 24 and 31, 2012

## Plastic is out

.....from page 2

waste generation".

The body noted that Republic Act 9003 also "clearly provides, among others, the institutionalization of public participation in the development and implementation of integrated, comprehensive and ecological waste management programs".

The ordinance requires shoppers or customers in the market to provide themselves biodegradable shopping bags "or other sturdy reusable shopping bags, boxes or crates, except plastic sando bags".

Establishments issuing plastic bags will be slapped fines of P1,000 for the first offense, P2,500 for the second and P5,000 and suspension of business permit for three months. The business permits of habitual offenders will not be renewed, the ordinance said.

"An erring business establishment shall be given 15 days after each offense to comply with this Ordinance. Non-compliance after due notice had been served shall constitute the next provided offense./ Ramon Dacawi.

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## Walter William's Journalist's Creed

This creed was written by Walter Williams (1864-1935), the man who founded the world's first school of journalism at the University of Missouri and perhaps contributed more toward the promotion of professional journalism than any other person of his time.

I believe in the profession of Journalism.

I believe that the public journal is a public trust; that all connected with it are, to the full measure of responsibility, trustees for the public; that acceptance of lesser service than the public service is a betrayal of this trust.

I believe that clear thinking, clear statement, accuracy and fairness are fundamental to good journalism.

I believe that a journalist should write only what he holds in his heart to be true. I believe that suppression of the news, for any consideration other than the welfare of society, is indefensible.

I believe that no one should write as a journalist what he would not say as a gentleman; that bribery by one's own pocket book is as much to be avoided as bribery by the pocketbook of another; that individual responsibility may not be escaped by pleading another's instructions or another's dividends.

I believe that advertising, news and editorial columns should alike serve the best interests of readers; that a single standard of helpful truth and cleanness should prevail for all; that supreme test of good journalism is the measure of its public service.

I believe that the journalism which succeeds the best-and best deserves success-fears God and honors man; is stoutly independent; unmoved by pride of opinion or greed of power; constructive, tolerant but never careless, self-controlled, patient, always respectful of its readers but always unafraid, is quickly indignant at injustice; is unswayed by the appeal of the privilege or the clamor of the mob; seeks to give every man a chance, and as far as law, an honest wage and recognition of human brotherhood can make it so, an equal chance; is profoundly patriotic while sincerely promoting international good will and cementing world-comradeship, is a journalism of humanity, of and for today's world. /http://www.nationalpressclub.org.ph

## RESEARCH & STATISTICS

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We believe that the Golden Rule applies to animals, too. We don't accept the prevailing notion that "people come first" or that "people are more important than animals." Animals feel pain and suffer just as we do, and it is almost always humans making animals suffer and not the other way around. Yet in spite of how cruelly people behave towards animals - not to mention human cruelty to other humans- we are supposed to believe that humans are superior to other animals. If people want to fancy themselves as being of greater moral worth than the other creatures on this earth, we should begin behaving better than they do, and not worse. Let's start treating everyone as we would like to be treated ourselves.

- Public Service Message from Linis Gobyerno

[www.linisgobyerno.org](http://www.linisgobyerno.org)



## Benguet Town Spurs Summer Tourism Activities

BAGUIO CITY - After the successful staging of the 1st International Pilipinas Akyathlon - Skyrunning Race last February 18, the municipality of Itogon in Benguet is again opening its doors to tourism related events and activities this summer season.

First on the list is the fiesta of Barangay Dalupirip from March 16 to 18 celebrating the 67th foundation anniversary, wherein the 'Paiding' Festival will be launched. According to Dalupirip Barangay Captain Ramon Cariño, the 'Paiding' comes from a name of a native fish specie that flourish in Dalupirip.

Among the scheduled activities for the said festival are the traditional native ritual called 'Cañao', cultural presentations, poster making contest, agro-trade fair, school presentations, invitational sports activities and horse racing.

Barangay Dalupirip, will also host sometime this April the proposed Mayor's Trek to Mt. Pingingan, a new hiking destination that the municipality of Itogon will introduce to the public.

For Barangay Tinongdan, it will be hosting on March 30 to April 1 the 10th Mt. Ugo Summer Climb, a known and multi-awarded mountaineering event which has been awarded as Best Tourism Event in the country under sports, adventure and wellness category in the National Convention of the Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines (ATOP).

According to Municipal Council Tourism Committee chair Councilor Norberto Pacio, they have added new activities in the itinerary of this year's Mt Ugo Summer Climb such as the inclusion of the municipality's 1300 Level Swimming Pool resorts for the closing program.

In support of the tourism program, the municipality, in partnership with the Saint Charles Borromeo Parish of Barangay Poblacion and the Diocese of Baguio, will also be spearheading a Concert for a Cause at the Baguio Convention Center on March 23. According to Poblacion Barangay Captain Andres Panayo, proceeds of the concert will go to the rehabilitation/restoration of the Mt. Bidawan Ave Maria Shrine, a historical site which also serves as a pilgrimage and tourism site that is located in the barangay.

In the same forum, Municipal Action Tourism Officer Flordeliza Diase said that tourism is among the priority thrusts of the municipality under mayor Oscar Camantiles, as aside from bringing in economic development, tourism also spurs livelihood and employment generations.

Diase also affirmed the growing tourism in their municipality, which in 2011 alone, has already breached the 100,000 mark in terms of visitors or tourist arrivals. The visitors mainly visit their 1300 Level pools, trekking in Mt. Ugo, touring the Balatok Gold Mines or having an educational tour in Binga Dam.

Also joining in the kapihan last Thursday to promote these Itogon summer events are Tinongdan Barangay Captain Benjamin Medino and Kagawad Deter Serape./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

## Sports Feature

..... from page 7

ship played on week-ends in Quezon City.

"At lemon-time, we would quench our thirst with tap water while our rivals gulped energy drink; but we kept on winning," recalled striker Monique Jacinto.

At the end of summer, the girls rode the jeepney home with their first national title. They took the Baguio National Invitational plum the following year and ruled the 1993 and 1995 editions of the National Ladies Football Cup.

Fo9r over4 two decades now, Cinderellas have captured all kinds of titles: the regular 11-aside, seven-a-side, beach football and, most recently, the Mayor Domogan-Congressman Vergara Cup sponsored by football promoters Alex and Annabelle Bangsoy of Goshenland.

Virgie said their introduction of futsal in the city jail is in celebration of coach Javellana's sacrifices and belief in the universality of football.

"It's also to honor the generosity of our patrons and donors over the years, the latest of whom are the expatriates who knocked on doors for the balls and gear that we're using in jail," she said.

As the initial training pushed on, the male inmates found themselves roaring over the clumsiness of their female counterparts. Soon, it will be the women's turn to rib as men's coach Aris Bocalan leads his own squad to training the male prisoners./Ramon Dacawi.

## BCPO intensifies TOP COP Program, Launches Bike Patrol Unit

BAGUIO CITY, Mar - In line with the Tourist-Oriented Police for Community Order and Protection (TOP COP) program, the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) launched its Bike Patrol Unit that will intensify police visibility in the city's key tourists destinations.

The launching last week was held simultaneously with the turn-over of the 10 mountain bikes sponsored by Public Safety Saving Loan Associations, Inc (PSSLAI), through the efforts of the Police Regional Office Cordillera (PRO-Cor). It was spearheaded by PRO-Cor Regional Director Police Chief Superintendent Benjamin Magalong and witnessed by City Vice Mayor Daniel Fariñas, PRO-Cor Deputy Regional Director for Operations PSSupt Roberto Soriano, and

BCPO Director PSSupt David Lacdan.

The Bike Patrol Unit will be headed by Police Inspector Dennis Laurence. Two police bikers are set to patrol on each tourist destinations in the city such as Burnham Park including the Rose Garden, Botanical Garden, Mines View Park, Lourdes Grotto and Mansion House and Wright Park.

In addition, two reconditioned all-terrain vehicle (ATV), which was also given by the PRO-Cor to BCPO will also be deployed to patrol the Rose Garden at Burnham Park.

Magalong said he will also be initiating a Basic Self-confidence Biking Training for the members of the BCPO Bike Patrol Unit, for them to effectively use the donated bikes.

Meanwhile, Lacdan reported a peaceful and orderly staging of Panagbenga

2012. From February 1 to March 4, there was a noted decrease in crime volume compared to the Flower Festival of the previous years. Based on BCPO record, from the 720 cases in 2010 and 734 cases in 2011, crime incidents notably decreased to 546 this year. Likewise, crime solution efficiency also improved to 22.71 percent this year, compared to the 0.09 and 10.22 percent, recorded in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

Lacdan attributed such accomplishment to the full support given by PRO-Cor Director Magalong and the concerted efforts of the police (including augmentation force from their regional office), and other force multipliers such as the Cordillera Administrative Region Training School trainees, AFP personnel and volunteer members of various civic organizations./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

## TESDA-CAR Invites Interested Individuals to Train on Animation

BAGUIO CITY - The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is inviting individuals who are interested to undergo training on animation to visit the Cordillera School of Digital Arts located at Suite 300 GP Arcade Building, Mabini Street, Baguio City.

Regional director Yolanda Olano of TESDA-CAR in a radio interview informed that said training on animation is under the umbrella of the Business Process Association of the Philippines (BPAP), in partnership with TESDA, as part of President Benigno Aquino III's stimulus package for pre-employment training and re-tooling of incoming workers in the IT-BPO sector.

Animation, Olano said is one critical sector nowadays which has high demand.

Meanwhile, Olano also encouraged those who would like to upgrade their skills or to acquire other highly employable skills to visit TESDA-CAR's Regional Training Center, or any of the Provincial Training Centers, as well as their other Technical Vocational Institutions (TVIs) such as the Baguio City School of Arts and Trades for other scholarship trainings that they could avail.

Olano said she always reminds the teachers/trainors to put emphasis on work ethics because while TESDA can always give the appropriate trainings, attitude towards work will always depend on the students/trainees.

Technical-vocational education and skills development is an option many people take nowadays. Aside from the higher opportunity of getting a promising employment, it can also pave a way for a much better financial opportunity, Olana added./JDP/MC-PIA CAR

## The Peace Combatant

..... from page 4

City, has a land area of 12,098 hectares and a population of 111,582 people in 2000 has a budget of Php 307 million in 2004. This humble municipality used to have no clear economic sectors but it overshadowed the municipal budget of Itogon that rely on gold, copper, and silver. Dagupan City with its humble bangus or milkfish industry and educational sector has a budget of Php 568 million in 2012 for only a land area of 4,364 hectares or about one-tenth of Itogon and yet the city has revenues of Php 568 million that enables her to support more than 100,000 people.

Based on the foregoing, it should be clear that municipal or city economies that rely on a vegetable production, educational institutions, fish production, and the like easily defeats large-scale mining. In fact, as things stand, it is large-scale mining that is the principal obstacle to Itogon's development and we will explain why this is the case next issue.

(The author can be contacted through artboquiren2040@yahoo.com, 0927-536-8431, and Facebook)



## Congress to Subpoena Books of all Sobrepena Companies.....from page 1

CJHDevco is owned and managed by Fil-Estate Corporation, chaired by Robert John Sobrepena, who also owns and manages the College Assurance Plan (CAP), the pre-need company known to have defaulted on its obligations to plan holders, and the Metro Rail Transit Development Corporation (MRTDevco), which currently owes the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) more than P1 billion.

"CJHDevco's debts places the government and the city of Baguio in a very disadvantageous position," Singson stated, as he moved for the subpoena of financial documents of CJHDevco. The John Hay lessee has not filed their financial statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) since 2008.

CJHDevco claimed losses while operating in the JHSEZ, and cited these as reasons for defaulting in their payment. The BCDA however revealed that CJHDevco has been declaring dividends while defaulting on their payments to government.

"They have not disclosed their books to us," says BCDA president and chief executive officer Arnel Casanova, adding "At the heart of this is transparency. We want a private sector partner who we can trust and who is transparent to the public. CJHDevco has been claiming losses without presenting proof and without stating the billions of revenues it generated as well."

CJHDevco has claimed losses in business opportunities due to the Supreme Court ruling nullifying tax incentives in the JHSEZ in 2003. CJHDevco also cited as reason for non-payment, the delay in the processing of their permits by the One-Stop Action Center.

BCDA refuted such claim because the ruling was already cured when BCDA actively lobbied in Congress, resulting in the signing of RA 9399 and RA 9400, two laws that granted tax amnesty and restored the tax incentives to JHSEZ locators. Hence, CJHDevco did not suffer any damages as it never paid any tax.

Casanova also said that the reason for the non-issuance of the permits to CJHDevco was a result of their own neglect, "They have not filed their income tax return and submitted financial statements to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) since 2008," Casanova said, adding "as a government agency, it is our policy to help enforce government laws. We require submission of income tax returns."

Baguio Rep. Bernardo Vergara moved for the creation of a technical working group (TWG) to address the concerns of both parties. The TWG was created with the provision of issuing a subpoena to all financial documents to CJHDevco and its affiliated companies to shed light on their business practices./ Public Affairs Department, BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City Tel No. 575-1700 local 1732 , 816-1113

## Advocacy Mindanow

.....from page 5

as I would enter the hostage area to again dialogue with them. This was relayed to me by one of the women hostages. As soon as I would enter the hostage room again, they would take me as hostage and commandeer the Huey helicopter that ferried me, then demand that they be flown to the MILF's Camp Abubakar. They would also harm (or kill) one hostage at a time until we would give in to allow them to escape. Opening the prison gates to trigger a massive jail break was also in their plan.

A decision to assault was arrived at. We all agreed that it was a "go" as soon as they would start harming the hostages. That day, I purposely did not enter the hostage area, but talked to them through the iron grilled windows with the MILF representative, Atty. Lanang Ali who was fetched by helicopter from Cotabato upon my instance and who tried to make a last ditch effort in convincing them to peacefully end the crisis. He told them that the MILF would not welcome them in their camp.

On that fateful afternoon, I was airborne aboard a Huey helicopter en route to Davao City when I got a call that the assault was underway. I was escorting back MILF's Atty. Lanang Ali who was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> helicopter with some mediamen. The Huey was still gaining altitude when I got that call. I diverted my Huey flight back to Dapecol while the 2<sup>nd</sup> chopper with Atty Lanang and the media proceeded to Davao City, then to Cotabato. When I landed back on the Dapecol grounds, I watched in quiet shock as the dead and the wounded were being loaded in ambulances.

**NERVOUS** — "Bato" remembered every detail of the assault. "Of course I was nervous. I could die right there," he said when asked to recall how he felt while waiting for the "go" signal. A commotion and some shouting and women crying came from the hostage area. At that precise instance, it was a "go". An "acoustics bomb" to initially shock the armed prisoners was detonated just outside the room to start the assault. "Bato" was shooter No. 1 as he was to be the first, together with Shooter No. 2, to engage targets from the open grilled window immediately. Unexpectedly, the entry of the other shooters assigned to barge into the room got delayed by a few seconds due to the padlocked door. (When disguised operatives earlier delivered some food and T-shirts to the armed prisoners in the room, they intentionally left the door padlock unlocked as planned to facilitate fast entry for the planned assault. However, one hostage taker got wise and padlocked it back.)

"Bato" and Shooter No. 2 (former CIDG head, Col. Art Evangelista) had to absorb and take the first volley from the window from the armed prisoners as they fired because of the delayed entry of other shooters.

When the smoke cleared, all the 8 hostage-takers were killed, unfortunately including one lady hostage. (God bless their souls.) The other women hostages were injured by stab wounds and some from bullet ricochets. Someone clocked the actual assault. It was over in about 14 seconds, cutting by half the period timed during the mock exercises. Col. Bato recalled that the prisoner who had the hand grenade was in the process of removing the scotch tape from the pin when he was fatally shot after

several volleys.

I remember immediately calling on the phone President Ramos to report. He was on some stage somewhere in Luzon attending a program. On Day 1 when I first sought guidance from him, he merely said: "Do what you have to do. Just keep me posted". I did. His reply was short: "Congratulations, good job!" I said: "I will fax you a detailed report, Mr. President".

Then off I went to the hospitals to tend to the wounded and consoled with the families. Before going home to Davao city that day, I returned to the hostage area. The DAPECOL area was eerily quiet. The thousands of prisoners who were usually freely and noisily frolicking within the barb wired grounds were nowhere to be found. Earlier during the day, they were all tucked in securely in their cells, a precautionary move to pre-empt the reported mass jail break plan.

**HEAVY ORDEAL** — When I arrived back at the Dapecol hostage area, the assault team members were still all there. The tension must have somehow already eased. Some were chatting in whispers but several were just sitting there and staring afar and in deep thought. The toll of having to go through that ordeal must be heavy, I told myself. They did a job. They executed it putting their lives on the line. And they did well.

I gathered them around. "Shooter No. 1" Bato was there but silent.

I told them: "I'm sorry this had to happen. But congratulations, you did a good job. Don't worry. I take full responsibility for what we all did." I sensed a feeling of relief among them after I talked with them. I went home that day relieved — but sad.

Years later, I learned that the Dapecol hostage incident was used as an example of how hostage-situations should be handled. It was described by many as a "successful" operations. The human rights complaint lodged against us with the United Nations did not prosper. Our own human rights office considered the matter closed.

But still, the loss of lives of the 8 hostage-takers and the lone woman hostage (Mrs. Corda) was something I, Colonel Bato and others who participated in the incident, have to live with to this day. This week is its 14<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. Our "chat" with Col. Ronald de la Rosa last Monday brought back all those memories.

## EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH SIMULTANEOUS WAIVER OF RIGHTS

That an Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate with Simultaneous Waiver of Rights was entered into on June 16, 2011 by the widower, illegitimate heirs and sole heirs of the deceased BISTAC LANGBIS who died intestate without will on December 8, 1999. That the deceased left a real property located at Sacupit, Sto. Tomas, Poblacion Tuba identified as ARP. No. 94-001-0051 of the Municipal Assessors Office of Poblacion Tuba, containing an area of 20,000 square meters. The Extra Judicial Settlement with Simultaneous Waiver of Rights was executed before the faith of Atty. Rommel P. Ayson and entered into his Notarial Registry as, Doc No. 1218; Page No. 0244; Book No. III; Series of 2011  
**Publication Dates: March 10, 17 and 24**



**Editorial****..... from page 4**

cascade into urban centers like Olongapo to, Batangas,, and Davao.

One out of three kids huddle in shacks atop rubbish dumps or even cemetery shacks. The number of the poor and undernourished wears an increasingly human face," the Unicef study notes. The ill-fed poor are "increasing faster in urban than in rural areas... Even the well-fed can suffer the "hidden hunger of micronutrient malnutrition. Natural disasters drove 42 million people from their homes in the Asia-Pacific 2011, Asian Development Bank notes. Among countries at risk are: the Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar, then Thailand and Vietnam. Temperature increases, changing rainfall patterns, sea-level rise, and more intense tropical cyclones will drive future migration patterns. Countries with high population density and long coastlines, like the Philippines, will bear the brunt of such changes.

History tells us a census can anchor key events. "At that time, the emperor issued a decree for a census of the world to be taken," Luke writes. "Joseph set out from Nazareth... to be registered with his wife Mary...in David's town of Bethlehem."/ Juan L. Mercado

**Ailing Mother****..... from page 2**

sion chemotherapy since the diagnosis was confirmed in June, 2010.

Social welfare officer Jacqueline Tupong said the patient and her common-law husband separated after she bore him two sons. She also got separated with her second husband after they begot three daughters. Except for the youngest, all her children are now married and raising their own families.

She now lives alone as a caretaker at Purok 5, Brookspoint, Baguio, Tupong said. "She used to (do) laundry work and other odd jobs ...(but) due to her health condition, she became economically unproductive",

Her elder son Ricky, who earns P260 a day as utility man in a medical clinic, tries to provide her basic needs. He's now at a loss figuring out how to bring her to Quezon City for the radiation therapy series that turns more urgent everyday.

Samaritans can ring up Amparo's cellphone (09091346361) or Ricky's (09057159419)./ Ramon Dacawi.

**Inquiry on Women****..... from page 2**

Davao. Eventually, it was Gabriela Partylist which assisted in their repatriation to Davao," the alderwomen noted.

"The case of Monro 8 might not be an isolated case and there is a need to invite all the personalities named in this Resolution to shed light on the true gravity of the incidence of trafficked women and children in the City of Baguio and what legislation can be passed to strengthen the City's drive to eradicate women and children trafficking in the City."

Fangasan is expected "to shed light on its existing programs to assist trafficked women" while Mencio is expected to give information on the "status of criminal cases involving trafficked women, specifically how many complaints were prosecuted, convicted, dismissed and the like."

Lagyop for his part will shed light on reports that many night and liquor establishments sell liquor without appropriate business permits.

"These establishments are purportedly being used as fronts of sex dens where women are sexually trafficked in the city. The continued operations of these establishments tend to promote sex trafficking and sex tourism in Baguio. Conversely, their immediate closure will likewise immediately arrest its incidence," the resolution noted./ A Refuerzo

**Council Endorses Chapter****..... from page 12**

Constitution and has not yet been revised since its enactment so that almost all of its provisions have become obsolete and irrelevant.

Domogan earlier described his bill as a "mixed marriage of provision of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 and the provisions of the 1909 City Charter, as amended by the Revised Administrative Code of 1917 and of Presidential Proclamations."

He said the bill "is expected to settle once and for all the jurisdictional boundary conflict between the City of Baguio and the town of Tuba in Benguet."

Among the proposals under the bill are the following:

\*The alienable and disposable public lands in the city known as the Baguio Townsite Reservation be titled in its name so that it can exert its power and authority to implement its approved land use and development plan.

\*The issue of ownership over said townsite reservation be speedily settled in favor of qualified occupants/applicants which will likewise address the problems of squatting. This is so because after the said townsite reservation is titled in the name of the city and after segregating those portions for public needs, the remaining areas which are safe for residential lots using the model of QM and South Sanitary Camp subdivisions be transferred for reasonable consideration to the actual occupants and/or qualified applicants;

\*The revenues of the city be tremendously increased. This is so because from the moment the issue of ownership over said townsite reservation had been settled in favor of the actual occupants and/or qualified applicants, they can now pay to the city government the reasonable consideration of the said land pursuant to Art. 1 Sect. 4b and Art. 15 Sect. 85, apply for the necessary building permits which will require them to pay the said building permit fees, and more importantly, they will now pay real estate taxes."

The bill, according to the mayor also seeks "to institutionalize the payment of the national government of its contribution to the administrative expenses of the city of Baguio pursuant to the provision of Republic Act No. 4708."

Furthermore, the proposed revision "treats on the improvement of the restructuring and reorganization of the offices of the city government with the creation of valid positions relevant to the present and future needs of the city."/A Refuerzo

**Cleanest and Greenest****..... from page 12**

This was announced by Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda, as chairperson of the search committee, during the Punong Barangays meeting last week.

The competition which utilizes only one set of criteria, introduces a fresh approach in the first stage of judging, where barangay officials participate as judges in the district level.

The criteria includes; cleanliness and orderliness, 40%; greening, garden and landscaping, 35%; and sustainable innovation and initiatives, 25%. The last criterion is an offshoot of the previous years where garden-entries are abandoned after the contest. As discussed by the search committee, the gardens should be sustained and maintained by the barangays for next year's Panagbenga festival.

For the cleanliness and orderliness criteria, the presence of street sweepers, waste segregation, garbage area and collection schedule should be scrutinized by the Punong Barangay judges. Points are allotted for the absence of: litter dumps, litter evidence, stray animals, animal litter, graffiti, spray painting evidence, handwriting on walls and unmanaged laundry hangings. Several points are for the absence of: burning evidence, cooked food stands, smoke belching evidence; no traffic obstruction, untended junk and improper parking of vehicles in the roads. Sanitary conditions of piggeries and animal pens, as with waterways shall be inspected, proper disposal of sewage and waste water.

Gardens in commercial and residential areas shall also be inspected, as with the community and roadside arrangements, including hedges, absence of unwanted weeds and physical enhancements.

For the sustainability: barangay legislation and budget appropriation should be presented, as with evidence of participation from individuals, community and linkages, and economic, environment, social impact.

The punong barangay or his duly authorized representative in each district composes the district level judges, who shall then conduct visitation and judging of barangays from another district, on April 10-21. The twenty (20) district coordinators, shall draw lots simultaneously by the end of this month, to select their place of judging, with a representative from the Special Services Division and the Office of Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda. No district judge shall be allowed to visit and judge its own district.

As to the guidelines, the barangay with the highest tabulated score shall automatically be the district entry to the contest. Any tie in the scores should be decided by the district judges.

Results shall be submitted to the city level judges who shall validate, through visitation of the actual entries in the barangays on April 25-30.

Cash prizes and trophies shall be awarded on May 7, 2012 during the flag ceremony at the city hall grounds.

Councilor Tabanda heads the committee, with Ms. Cathy Dela Rosa as co-chairperson. Ms. Onie Aguinalde, Special Services Division of the City Mayor's Office OIC Noel Mabutas, Public Information Officer Ramon Dacawi, Councilor Philian Louise Weygan-Allan, Councilor Perlita Chan-Rondez, Councilor Joel Alangsab, Councilor Nicasio Palaganas, Atty. George Fortea of the Congressman's Office, Architect Joseph Alabanza and CEPMO head Cordelia Lacsamana are members of the committee./ juliegfianza



## Earth Hour on March 31

**BAGUIO CITY** – Hoping to find more ways of conserving energy, the city government celebrates earth hour on March 31 with a one-lane closure of Session Road from 3PM to 12 midnight, an hour of candlelight; from 8:30-9:30pm in lieu of electric lights, and environmentally-inclined arts and photo exhibit; all at the same venue.

It was specified however that the one-lane road closure shall be from Upper Session road down to Assumption road only, as patterned from the pedestrianization proposal, done a month ago. This is seen to minimize vehicular fumes and encourage exercise through walking even for just a few meters.

Sidewalk cafés shall be seen on the area, with a mini-concert soon after an inspirational message and ceremonial switching-off of lights by Mayor Mauricio Domogan.

The occasion is in consonance with the Earth hour 2012 campaign through a letter-invitation of Earth Hour Philippines National Director Atty. Angela Consuelo Ibay.

A banner shall be unveiled during the flag-raising ceremonies at city hall this Monday, March 19, while similar banners may be seen in the center islands of Session road, Magsaysay Avenue, Harrison road, Abanao street from March 22 to 31.

In a meeting last week, the mayor emphasized that materials for the celebration should be recyclable, reusable and biodegradable in addition to saving energy for an hour. All sectors; business, socio-civic, academe and households should be informed of the basis for turning off their lights for an hour, the mayor said.

Though all sectors are urged to join through switching off their lights from 8:30-9:30 pm for that day, all environmentally-concerned groups who are interested to participate in the celebration may get in touch with the City Mayor's Office, tel. no. 300-6503./juliegfianza

## Council Endorses Charter Change Bill

**BAGUIO CITY** – The city council last Monday passed a resolution endorsing the passage of House Bill No. 3759 or An Act Revising the Charter of the City of Baguio.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan who attended the recent hearing by the Senate committee on local government chaired by Senator Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. asked for the body's endorsement to boost the bill's passage.

Marcos' committee is preparing to submit the bill for plenary debates and amendments in the Senate pending clarification on the “conflict between the implementation of the Free Patent Law and the city's Townsite Sales Application” mode of titling.

The committee is also considering the mayor's request for the deletion of the provision that seeks to treat legitimate ancestral lands as inalienable or with the same status as private lots.

The mayor said the provision was intended to protect ancestral land claimants from speculators but some feel it will affect the claimants' control over their ancestral domain.

To avoid politicizing the issue to the detriment of the entire bill, the mayor decided to do away with the said provision.

“The passage of the said bill is very much needed as it shall help resolve serious problems of the city such as finally

settle the boundary dispute between the city and the municipality of Tuba; address the problems and speed up the disposal and awarding of alienable and disposable public lands to qualified beneficiaries; improve the human resource of the city; and improve the revenue of the city,” the mayor said.

This is the city's third attempt to have the age-old charter amended. Domogan during his term as congressman filed bill twice to no avail.

**Incumbent Rep. Bernardo Vergara** revived Domogan's bill adopting the exact contents of the original proposal.

The city's charter has remained unchanged since it was written by Justice George Malcolm in 1909. The Charter even pre-dates the 1935

Cont. on page 11

## The JUNCTION

Pahayagang Palaban!!!



**NEW MTC JUDGES** - Municipal Trial Court (MTC) Branch 1 Clerk of Court III Lourdes Caaoli introduces newly designated MTC Branch 2 Judge Glenda T. Ortiz (extreme right) and MTC Branch 3 Judge Leody M. Opolinto while city officials headed by Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas welcome them during city hall's flag raising ceremonies March 12./By Bong Cayabyab

## City Supports La Trinidad Strawberry Festival –Mayor

**BAGUIO CITY**-The city shall participate in the ongoing Strawberry festival at La Trinidad, Benguet, Mayor Mauricio Domogan said during the media forum, Ugnayan, last week.

“We should have good working relations with our neighbors,” the mayor said, acknowledging that strawberries and much of the flowers used for the just concluded Panagbenga are from La Trinidad, Benguet.

He also intimated that neighboring places should have festival dates closest to each other in order to maximize resources; including housing and transportation for tourists.

“We support strategic scheduling for the activities of

val and the La Trinidad Strawberry Festival so locals and tourists can attend both main events in just a few days,” he said.

The strawberry festival with the theme, “Delighting In the Wonders of La Trinidad,” started with a trade fair in the market area last week-end while the main event shall be this Sunday, March 18; with a civic parade, opening of the Strawberry Lane and “Owikan Tayao” at the Municipal Hall grounds.

As an innovation and to back-up environmentalists, a lantern show shall be done in place of fireworks this evening at the same venue.

Strawberry products; for food, wine, salads and beauty care, and cooking demonstrations, shall be featured in

the Baguio Flower Festival the festival until April 15.

Sports activities, bike challenge, magic and acrobatic show, a beauty pageant and a job fair; with a dog show and concert for a cause are spread in different venues within the period for local and foreign tourists to enjoy.

The traffic number coding in La Trinidad is also suspended from March 14 to April 13, 2012, as to Executive Order 13 issued by Mayor Gregorio Abalos. The suspension is purposely to allow tourists visiting La Trinidad and adjoining localities, “and to allow local entrepreneurs use of their vehicles to transport their wares,” the EO states.

A contingent from Baguio joins the civic parade today./juliegfianza

## Cleanest and Greenest Barangay Contest goes on Until May

**BAGUIO CITY** – The city's 128 Barangays have until the end of March to clean their areas of

responsibility and prepare their garden for judging by barangay official-counterparts and

later by visual artists, as part of Panagbenga 2012 cleanest and greenest barangay contest.

Cont. on page 11

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